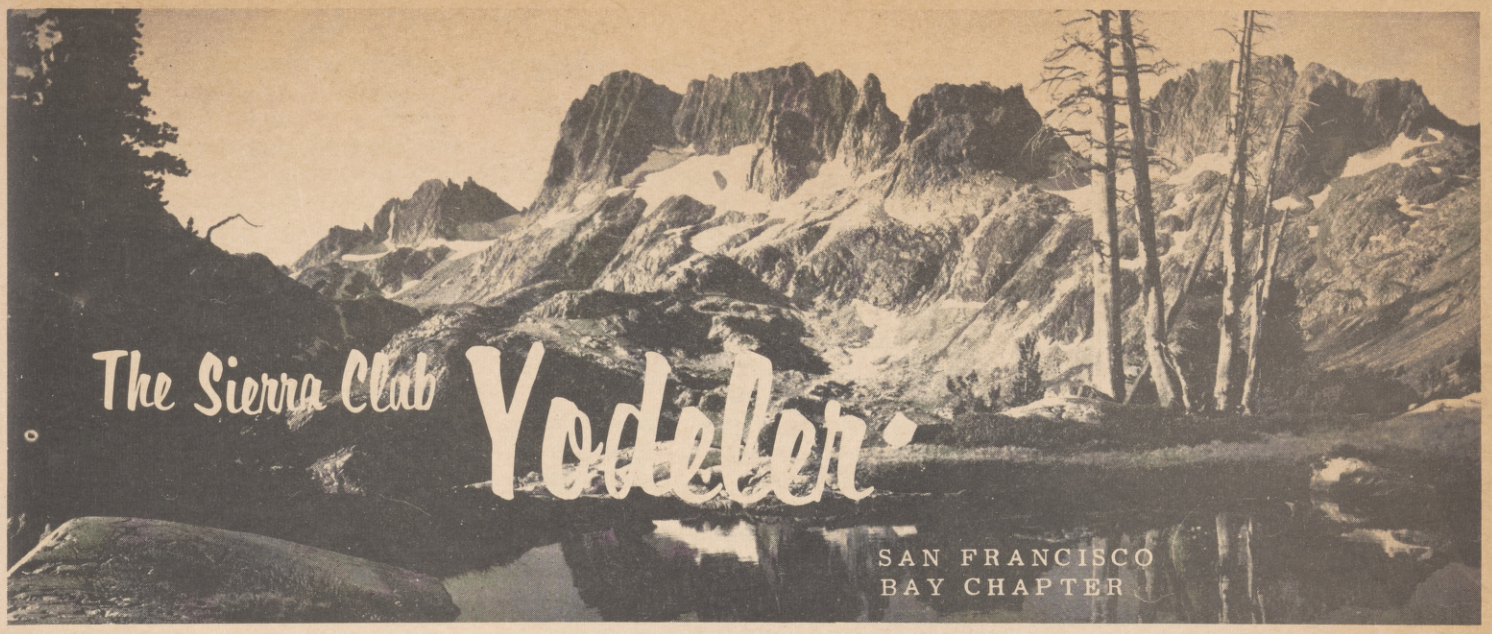


VOLUME XXI May 18, 1959 NO. 10

Conservation Notes

The chill on the legislative front at Sacramento really warmed up last week. The resolution SCR 13 urging the low-level highway across Emerald Bay was finally voted upon in the Assembly and only 16 votes supported it. By referring it back to the Ways and Means Committee the issue was probably sidetracked for this session. It was evident that much good information had reached the Assemblymen, for the two State Parks involved in the lower route were prominent in press reports of the discussion.

A new Chief of the Division of Beaches and Parks was appointed by Governor Brown on May 11. He is Charles A. De Turk, chief planner for the State Park Division of the State of Washington. Mr. DeTurk is a landscape architect who has had experience in park planning in Indiana, Pennsylvania and Michigan before coming to Washington. He is one of three excellent candidates recommended by the State Personnel Board for this position and we wish him good luck in California. Someone asked retired Chief Newton Drury if time was hanging heavy on his hands. No indeed, he is as busy as ever, with boxes full of personal files waiting to be sorted.

Someone has the idea that the wooded natural area at the head of Dimond Canyon in Oakland would be a fine place for a nine-hole golf course. The Junior Chamber of Commerce wants it to be operated by private enterprise. So much clearing, leveling and roadmaking would have to be done that the whole character of the canyon would change. Oakland readers might want to find out what their Council members think about this. Natural areas are precious and these steep slopes do not seem the right spot for a golf course.

(Cont. next col.)

Conservation is an idea hardly yet known in Southeast Asia but it is encouraging to hear that even there far-sighted people are trying to save wild life from extinction. Do Boonsong of Thailand is one of them. He has been a guest of Harold Bradley for the past week and is travelling in this country especially to observe our methods of conservation. We asked him about forest conservation in Thailand. The government, he says, sets a quota for the cutting of teak and proudly claims sustained yield, ignoring the fact that illegal cutting is twice as much as that permitted. No forest for the future are being raised there. We asked: Do the women play any part in conservation there? Unfortunately no; they have no leaders, though one princess has taken an important part in conservation. There is great need for what Dr. Boonsong called "elderly ladies" to take the lead in educating the public of Thailand.

—C.M.C.

East Bay Dinner News

Simon Miedema will treat all comers to the June 10 East Bay dinner meeting to a snowshoe trip by way of one of his fine 16 mm. movies. This program is guaranteed, so you may look forward to winter even before summer has arrived. An additional treat will be a showing of one of Simon's short reels entitled "Norden Fun Weekend".

The East Bay dinner meetings are held in the Willard Junior High School cafeteria, Telegraph Avenue & Ward Street, in Berkeley. Dinner is served at 6:30, and the program begins at 7:30. For dinner reservations phone Barbara Grant before 10:00 p.m. on June 8th.

—Alice M. Abeel

Astronomy & Geology

Courses for the layman in astronomy and geology will be offered this summer by University of California Extension in Berkeley and San Francisco.

"Astronomy for the Layman" meets Monday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m. in room 342 Dwinelle Hall, U.C., Berkeley. This course will consist of a short descriptive survey, illustrated with slides, of our present knowledge of the universe: the solar system, stars, interstellar matter, and stellar systems.

"Geology for the Layman" meets in San Francisco on Tuesday, June 2, at 7 p.m. in room 209 Richardson Hall, U.C. Extension Center, 55 Laguna Street. The same course will be given in Berkeley beginning Wednesday, June 3, at 7 p.m., 209 Bacon Hall, U.C. campus.

Topics to be covered in class include the nature of earthquakes and volcanic activity; development of the land surface; petroleum and ore deposits; common rocks and minerals.

The fee for either course is $15. Further information and application for enrollment may be obtained from University Extension, University of California, Berkeley 4 (TH 5-6000, local 8221). Visitors are welcome to attend the first meeting of any class.

—EDB

Foldboats or kayaks are wanted at a "reasonable" price for boy scout Explorer Post #11 of Alameda (Eagle Scouts and Sierra Club members) whose main interest is river touring. These young men need boats for this activity but lack funds for new boats. For further information contact their advisor: Randal Dickey Jr., LA 2-8727 (office); OL 3-8604 (home), or write to him at 2329 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda.

Sierra Club Yodeler

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NEXT DEADLINE: June 1

VOLUME XXI NO. 10 — May 18, 1959

Report on May 2 Hike

When the January 24th hike was scheduled for the Huckleberry Trail for the express purpose of seeing the early spring blossoms, the nine die-hards who went on the hike saw mostly cold rain and low-flying clouds (cf. Yodeler, February 16). On May 2 we decided to try it again.

To the fifty-three of us who set forth together, the chosen day was just right for hiking, for photography, and for sitting on the grass to enjoy the sun, the cloud-dotted blue sky, and the good conversation we had brought with us. The huckleberries were still blooming in abundance along the Huckleberry Trail. (Will there be a good crop this fall?)

Leaving the Huckleberry Trail, we entered Round Top Regional Park. There we again enjoyed the hospitality of O.F.D. Engine Company No. 33. (Last January the firemen had served the nine of us coffee while we dripped around their stove!)

We climbed a high hill to the northeast of Round Top, from which the views of the Bay cities and suburbs were unexpected and different. "What's that big city over there?" asked one surprised hiker. (It was The City.) The Farallones showed white in the clear morning light.

On the grassy ridge chosen for our luncheon stop, Hazel Eggett brought out her big surprise—a delicious ice-cold watermelon! Her explanation: "I needed to get in shape for the Knapsack Trip this summer, so I stuffed this into my pack for extra weight".

Along Moraga Ridge the cerise blossoms of the Chaparral Pea and the lemon yellow Bush Poppy added to the pleasures of tramping through the Knobcone Pine forest.

Taking our leave in the Redwood grove at Canyon, we looked forward to planning this hike for next year.

—Margaret Gwinn

Playing "Dodge 'Em" on the Owyhee – Two Versions

I. The Owyhee River beckoned us to the sage-brush desert of eastern Oregon. Thirteen river tourers plus bearded guides Bob Pruitt and Bob Smith went rock-dodging down this river, northward from Rome, Oregon, the week of May 4. Great fun: the water was so low that all the rapids had become exercises in navigation through tombstone orchards.

The river has cut its little grand canyon through lava cliffs, leaving high sandstone buttresses that are wind-carved into castles and columns. Swallow nests were everywhere, some so low we could touch them from our boats. Duck calls wakened us every morning; geese honked overhead; blackbirds and canyon wren serenaded us all the day long. Redwing blackbirds there have a bright yellow stripe beside the red shoulder patch—beautiful!

We camped on the sand with driftwood piles for firewood an arm's length away. Bryce's little dog, Charlie Brown, kept us supplied with dried-up rabbits and old cow bones (drought lies over the range) when he wasn't surveying the river from atop a baggage boat.

Bob Pruitt taught us how a Sierra Club leader should care for his flock. He cooked and organized, led the way and carried our dunnage, furnished steaks for dinner two nights, and even came around at 2 a.m. to tuck us in when it started to rain.

Every night we had a boat-patching party. During the days we practiced hitting the rocks lightly, and we are now experts at the quick maneuver and the full-strength back ferry, with a little practice running three-foot wide waterfalls thrown in.

The Owyhee isn't recommended for a raft trip—too frequent boulder forests—but if you have a chance to kayak along it, go. Pictures to prove it will be shown at the next River Touring meeting, on June 9.

—Glenn Gaumer

II. On the Owyhee trip there were 15 of us in our group; ten in kayaks, two "dudes" or passengers for the McKenzie River boats, three boatmen, and one Labrador Retriever, "Charlie Brown", belonging to Bryce. "Charlie" learned to take the trip hanging by his tail as well as his paws and stomach.

The trip was terrific, in spite of the snow, hail and rain over the pass and some in Nevada before we even put in the river. The Owyhee water was low. Rocks, rocks and still more rocks required much back paddling and back ferrying. Our technique in this respect has improved greatly. Many exciting rapids helped relieve the hard work of rock dodging.

The river ran northward through many rock-lined canyons; caves at water levels intrigued us. Tumbleweeds tumbled, sage brush perfumed the air and birds greeted us wherever we went.

Many of us saw our first golden eagles swooping and diving over their nests. The western oriole intrigued us all, as it looked like a small wild canary. Redwing blackbirds and Canadian geese trilled or honked as we rounded the bends of the river.

When we stopped for lunch or boat repairing, we would take short exploratory walks. The discovery of Indian arrow heads emphasized the need for more time on shore for such exploring.

The food was delicious. Steaks and hot breads topped the menu; cornbread and ham ran a close second. So you see there is more than one reason to make this river a must trip next year.

Bob Pruitt, our guide, and his assistant, Bob Smith, deserve a lot of credit for making our trip a pleasant one.

At our last meeting, starting time for trips was discussed. It was decided that trips would start at the time stated in the schedule. Thus, if a starting time of 10:00 a.m. is given, this will be the time the group will put in the river. Those with foldboats to put together will have to plan accordingly.

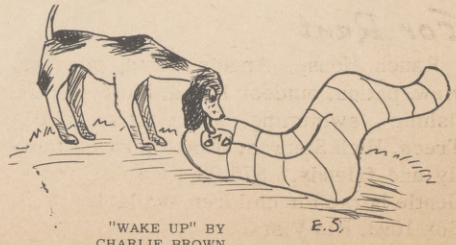
—Elinore Ridge

The river touring on the Russian River scheduled for May 23-24 had to be cancelled because of the low water level.

Work Parties

Work parties are now being organized to help with reconstruction work at Clair Tappan Lodge. A new addition is being built to the north wall of the building. A new recreation room is being built in the basement. Carpenter and floor laying help is especially needed, in addition to the regular maintenance work that must be done each year. A $3.00 credit per weekend trip per work party passenger is allowed from the Bay Area. Transportation coordinators are as follows: In S.F. - Anita Suran MO 4-5423. On the peninsula Phyllis Macchiaverna - DI 2-5158. In the East Bay - Dan Lee TH 5-7161. The Lodge has a baby sitter who can be hired for $1.00 per day in case volunteers have family problems. Groups will be organized for this important work on all weekends except Labor Day. Kay Homsey can be reached at SU 1-0685 for any details or information required.

—EDB



"WAKE UP" BY CHARLIE BROWN

WEST POINT CLUB
Wants You!
When?
At the Annual Meeting, of course!
Sunday, May 24, 1959 - 1:00 p.m. sharp.
Election of Directors. Come and show interest by voting.

West Point Hostesses

For May & June 1959

*May 16-17	Grace & Alan Woodward GR 4-2500	Anytime
*May 23-24	Lupe & Louis Rioseco WA 1-2898	Anytime
May 30-31	Edna Laumann TH 5-8557	Evening
*June 6-7	Ann Cole PR 6-4194	Evening
June 13-14	Mary Garland WA 1-5452	Evening
June 20-21	Bernice & John Green FI 6-5981	Evening
*June 27-28	Irene Meining & Portia Bradley GR 4-2500	Anytime

*CENTRAL COMMISSARY. Cancellation of reservations must be made by Thursday or party must pay for weekend.

WEST POINT - Box 278, Route 1, Mill Valley. Phone DU 8-9955.

DOES THIS ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

The following data on driving to Merced from the East Bay may be of general interest:

1. From the Patterson turn-off east of Tracy via State 33 to Gustine and then east on State 140 to Merced is 72 miles. On a Friday night with little traffic and cruising at 55-60 MPH in rainy weather, this took 80 minutes.

2. From Merced north on U.S. 99 via Manteca to the Patterson turn-off is 65 miles. On a Sunday night with moderate traffic and cruising at 60-65 MPH in clear weather, this took 80 minutes.

Don't ask me to explain; I'm just reporting the facts on an age-old controversy. —Phyllis Lindley

For Rent

Ranch House, Angels Camp, porches, view, patios, outdoor living. Mother Lode, fishing, swimming, short drive to Big Trees, High Sierras. Room for your family and friends. $75.00 week, or rates. Gentle horse for children available. P.O. Box 1093, Rio Vista.

On the Newsfront

Director Edgar Wayburn celebrated his election as Vice-President of the Sierra Club by spending two weeks in the hospital with a serious attackof virus pneumonia. We are glad to report that he is at home again and recuperating rapidly.

The wedding of Martha Hayne and Lee Talbot, at St. Helena on May 16 was practically a High Trip reunion for many of the guests. Martha Hayne was instrumental in organizing the Student Conservation Corps, which is doing excellent work in the National Parks, a remarkable contribution to the welfare of the whole nation. Lee is a research student in ecology and wild-life and in a few weeks from now both he and Martha will be in remotest Africa studying big game in its own home.

The "Yodeler" extends sympathy to Helen M. Rudy on the death in April of her mother, a resident of Bellingham, Washington.

Stan Renouf notes a change in the transportation coordinators for the knapsacking trip to Yosemite on June 20 & 21. For S.F. the car coordinator will be Marg. Dennis and for the Eastbay it will be Stan Renouf.

Sallie Gilbert (Norvell) added John Eric to this year's crop of babies on March 18, 1959, at Alta Bates Hospital. Down the ward was Rosemary Carlson with her third daughter. This effort more than offsets Sallie's two boys. Bob and Sallie send regards to friends in the Sierra Club.

Marian Fruhling sends word from Baltimore, Md., that she's having a fine time with Eastern dudes - Maryland Mountain Club, Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, Wanderbirds of Washington, D.C., etc. She sends greetings to former friends of the Sierra Club.

Late news flash — Ansel Adams' daughter Ann Mayhew (Mrs. Charles) has a daughter born May 14.

Del Eberhardt writes from far away Alaska that he is holding down two jobs in Fairbanks. He is a public school teacher and part time minister for the Unitarian Church. He will be working at Camp Denali in McKinley National Park, Alaska, this summer and would welcome any former friends from the Sierra Club.

Ethel Unselt and Margaret Jones write from Hawaii to say they are having a fine time exploring the wonders of nature in our 50th State.

The staff of the "Yodeler" is planning to publish its annual "Gourmet Guide" in the June 15 issue, and is calling for assistance from all readers in sending us their personal recommendations for worthy restaurants and eating establishments to be placed on this list. A candidate for this list is any eating place that is clean, serves good food, reasonably priced, and has no objections to serving weary travelers in their rough and ready clothing. This will be your list, so help us with your recommendations.

—EDB

Biography of John Muir

Excerpts from a letter written by Mr. William E. Colby, distinguished Californian and intimate friend of John Muir, written to Doctor Winkley, author of a new biography of the great Naturalist:

"Dear Mr. Winkley: I received the copy of the Muir book which you so kindly sent me, and am very pleased with it. After reading it, I am more than pleased. You have caught and presented the spirit of the wonderful human being that Muir was, much better than I thought possible for one who did not know Muir personally. You have brought out his real character."

(Signed) William E. Colby

Mr. Colby wrote the introduction to the Muir book. It is on sale at $2.50 per copy. All profits go into the Muir Memorial Park Fund, for restoration of the old Muir Home, Martinez.

Do Knapsackers Really Go Light

Twenty three people enjoyed a lovely spring outing in the Ventana Wild Area on the weekend of May 9-10. In spite of poison oak and numerous stream crossings — reported to be a modest total of 38 — the group was rewarded with excellent swimming and some good catches of trout. Saturday dinner consisting of steak, tossed green salad, soup, and jello dessert was preceded by a happy hour of hors d'oeuvres, topped off with Sam Axtell's Wild Ventana Punch. A lively evening campfire produced some hidden talents to watch for in future knapsack trips.

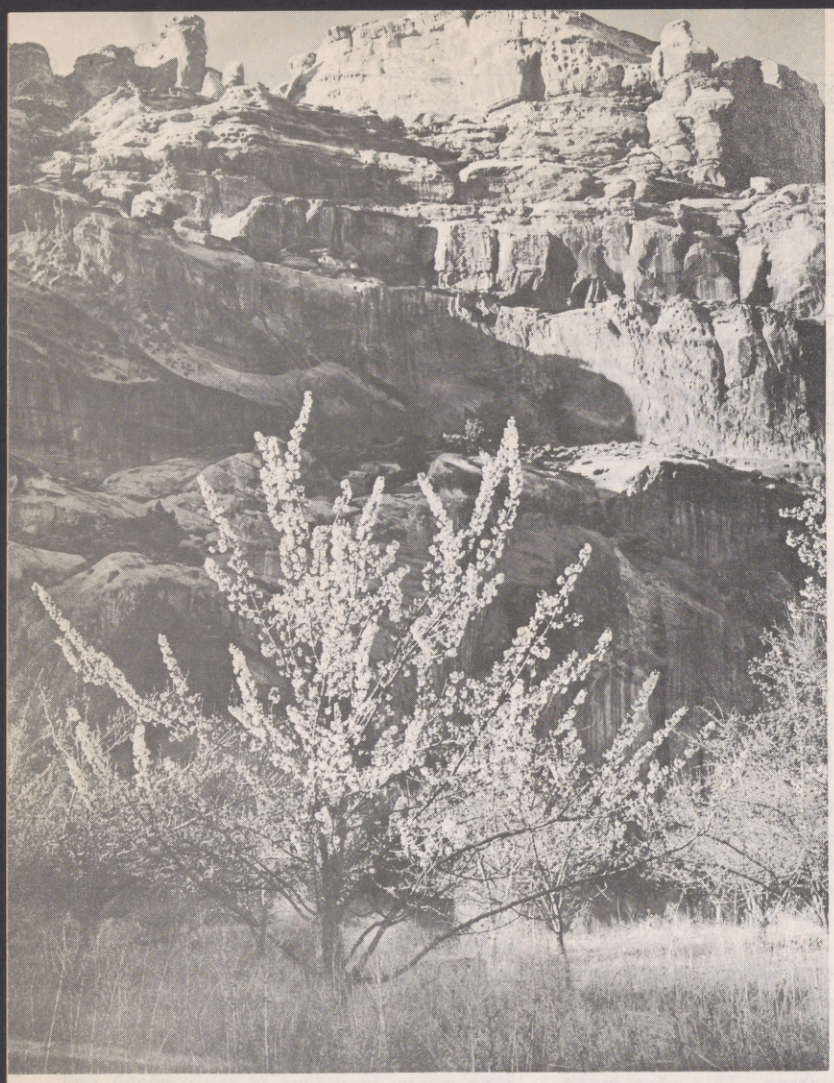
Many thanks to leaders Sam Axtell and Bill Quay for a nice weekend and the wonderful commissary.

—Pauline Lee

Belt Purses

Blue denim, red or blue duck. Water repellent. Washable. Four sizes. Largest especially designed for carrying a Peterson Field Guide.

Handmade by Bernice Bonds, 1671 Arch St., Apt. 6, Berkeley, 9. THornwall 1-1696. Also available at Audubon Center, 2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley.



River Tourers have many opportunities to explore old homesteads abandoned many years before, relics of the times when life was lived in the simpler fashion. Photo by Geoffrey Fricker, of Fair Oaks, shows the old orchard in bloom, taken on the first club river trip of the season.

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The Sierra Club

Outing Equipment Check List

Yodeler has just received a copy of the new Outing Equipment Check List issued by the Sierra Club. Club member Robert K. Cutter has spent a great deal of time and care in compiling this expanded list. It is full of practical suggestions and information about equipment that will interest "Old Timers" as well as beginners.

All those making reservations for the summer outings will, we expect, be receiving a copy hot from the press. It is certain to be much appreciated by all.

Wampler Trail Trips

Fisherman Special - Season, June 13-26.
Cost: From $80.
Leisure Camp - Season, July 11 - Aug. 21.
Cost: From $55.00.

These trips are located in the western Sierra Nevada, the former near J.O. Pass, the latter near Kaiser Pass.

Write for details, Box 45, Berkeley 1, California.

ADVERTISMENTS

"Volkswagon Kombi Camper '58. Top German Craftsmanship throughout. Perfect for economical week-ends, fishing and hunting trips, vacations, city use as well. Nine passengers by day. Sleeps family of five. Stove, beds, cabinets, and table quickly removable for hauling jobs. Decorator Interior; only one of its kind; must see to appreciate. At $2350 a real steal. Phone ED 2-1249."

Skiers Attention!

Here is some of the news from the Far West Ski Association Convention held at Bijou, Tahoe on May 2-3.

1. The new president is Byron Nishkian fron Northern California.
2. Two new Vice-Presidents will be sitting in on the Board of Directors: one representing the Far West Ski Instructors Association; and the other the Northern and Southern Tow Operators Association.
3. There were between 3300 and 3400 people in FWSA in 1958-59. They would like to double that next year.
4. Dues were raised to $3.50 a year (but they still include the subscription to National Skiing magazine with the Far West section in it).
5. Anyone donating $25 or more to the Olympic fund will receive a bound copy of all results (Photography in the last one was very extensive).
6. A highway into Mineral King is now being considered for highway survey.
7. F.W.S.A. went on record as supporting Senate Bill 1286 and its companion in the Assembly which permits continued maintainance of Highway 40 for the Ski Areas in the winter after the new road is completed.
8. Chris Christensen reported on the Ski Patrol and the Olympics: The Olympic Committee takes over Squaw Valley for the whole month of February, and will be responsible for the spectator patrol from Feb. 1. There will be no weekend volunteers at that time. The complete patrol is yet to be chosen and he welcomes any applications now (in duplicate). Qualified Senior patrolmen may write him at Squaw Valley. Conducted tours of the facilities this summer will be starting soon.

—Jean Kearney